

of time, energy and effort by volunteering in many ways.

The entire community of the New York City Laboratory School for the Gifted is an example of how dedication, hard work and personalized relationships lead to positive and phenomenal results. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the entire community of the New York City Laboratory School.

A TRIBUTE TO SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA'S HERO OF THE WEEK PROGRAM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives a wonderful program that exists in the city of Santa Clarita called the "Hero of the Week" and those individuals honored in this program.

The program is jointly sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force and Mad About Rising Crime Santa Clarita Chapter under the direction of Mr. Gary Popejoy. Started by Maria Fulkerson and Lorraine Grimaldo of the Sant Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force, the "Hero of the Week" program focuses on more of the positive actions of our youth rather than the negative. The program honors students for their positive actions and choices they have demonstrated. The students from the Santa Clarita Valley Junior and Senior High Schools are recommended by teachers and principals based on their observations of the student exhibiting positive behavior.

The students that are selected exhibit the qualities that we are looking for in future leaders of our nation. These students, many of whom have had previous problems of one sort or another, have made remarkable improvements in many different areas. I am pleased to honor these students today here on the House floor.

On June 2, 1999 the "Hero of the Week" program honored 47 members of my community for their outstanding activities that truly made them heroes in our neighborhood. These students have faced serious obstacles and, in many cases, faltered in the face of adversity. However, none of these students gave up. Their hard work and determination have truly earned them the title "Hero" in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude these remarks by listing the 47 students honored by the city last week. I congratulate them and the sponsoring organizations for such a wonderful, positive program.

HERO OF THE WEEK HONOREES

Neal Abrams, Canyon High School
Jose Avila, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Monica Barajas, Placerita Jr. High School
Allison Barlow, La Mesa Jr. High School
Adrian Becerra, La Mesa Jr. High School
Chris Butterrick, Sierra Visa Jr. High School
Brett Cain, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Raymond Cano, Hart High School
Anthony Cisneros, Sierra Vista Jr. High School
Keith Farley, Canyon High School

Dylan Foley, Placerita High School
Sherylene Go, Saugus High School
Ashley Hope, Sierra Vista Jr. High School
Jared Kennedy, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Kristian Kimoto, Hart High School
Russell King, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Johnny Lara, Hart High School
Chris Lockwood, Valencia High School
Selena Lopez, Saugus High School
Ashlie Madden, Placerita Jr. High School
Luis Marin, Placerita Jr. High School
Ana Medrano, Bowman High School
Denika Mercado, Saugus High School
Charissee Miranda, La Mesa High School
Michelle O'Kray, La Mesa Jr. High School
Emily Osborne, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Andrew Pacheco, Bowman High School
Jimmy Perry, Canyon High School
Erik Plessner, Saugus High School
Brittney Potes, Hart High School
Marina Preciado, Saugus High School
Naji Qammou, Bowman High School
Mike Raiman, Sierra Vista Jr. High School
Daniel Rettig, Saugus High School
Jorge Rodriguez, Bowman High School
Danielle Sozio, Canyon High School
Sean Pennala-Taylor, Sierra Vista Jr. High School

Denny Tucker, Valencia High School
Adriana Varela, Saugus High School
Jorge Vargas, Hart High School
Rene Vasquez, Placerita Jr. High School
Jaclyn Vigeant, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School
Danielle Walters, Sierra Vista Jr. High School
Joe Young, Sierra Vista Jr. High School
Megan Young, Placerita Jr. High School
Oscar Zapata, Canyon High School

MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL DOCUMENTS HARM DONE BY MEDICARE CUTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the Congressional recess, I spent a very useful two hours at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth meeting with a large number of older people at a rally called by the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. One of the very impressive aspects of that rally was a series of short, poignant examples given by members of the Council of the terrible harm that is being done by the cut backs in Medicare that we are now inflicting on older people, most of which are a direct result of the terribly mistaken legislation adopted by Congress and signed by the President in 1997.

Younger people reading this might not be aware of a central fact: as currently constituted, Medicare includes no payment for prescription drugs. We in Massachusetts used to have a law which required that HMOs provide prescription drugs, but that was crudely abolished by the 1997 so-called Balanced Budget Act as part of the effort to cut Medicare to make funds available for other purposes. And that bill also required for the same reason severe cut backs in home health care. I ask that these examples of the terrible damage that is being done by the 1997 Act be printed here, in the hopes that it will influence our colleagues to join those of us who are seeking to undo the grave error Congress made in 1997 in cutting Medicare.

TESTIMONY GIVEN AT THE MASS. SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL RALLY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY, JUNE 1, 1999

Armando and Alexandria Demelo live in Fairhaven. They are 75 and 78 years old. They both have life threatening medical conditions. Their prescription drug costs are currently \$6,000 per year.

William Kirby lives in East Wareham. He is 83 years old. He has emphysema. His prescription drug costs are over \$800 per month.

Arthur and Mary Travassos live in Fall River. They both have serious health problems and Arthur is currently in the hospital. They were lucky enough to be able to switch out of their HMO in time to another plan which is now closed. Between the two of them they pay over \$7,000 yearly in prescription drug costs.

Del Silvia worked as a stitcher in the Fall River mills for 37 years. She is 63 years old. She is on nine prescription drug medications in order to keep her lungs functioning. Before Del got out of her Medicare HMO she had over \$10,000 in prescription drug costs per year.

An 84 year old Portuguese woman who lives in New Bedford was admitted to the hospital in the middle of the night with severe cramping in her abdomen. Thank God she did not have a serious obstruction. Her HMO denied payment for her care in the hospital.

An 85 year old woman from Southeastern Mass. was discharged from the hospital after an operation for colon cancer. She had been in the hospital a full month. She was approved by Medicare for only 4 home health visits.

A 73 year old woman from Fall River returned from the hospital after knee surgery. She was denied home health services by her HMO.

Loretta Lamond from New Bedford passed away last year. She was 85 years old. She was diabetic and blind and could not fill her own insulin needles. Medicare cut off her nurse who came to the house to assist her with the needles.

These are only a few of the countless stories we hear every day. The sickest and most vulnerable—those who can not always speak for themselves are hit the hardest.

Something must be done!

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND MANDATORY COVERAGE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL LAW TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to require the U.S. Attorney General to call for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations that Justice Department employees engaged in misconduct, criminal activity, corruption, or fraud. The bill is similar to legislation I authored in the last three Congresses.

The independent counsel provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 require the Attorney General to conduct a preliminary investigation when presented with credible information of criminal wrongdoing by high-ranking executive branch officials. If the Attorney General finds that further investigation is warranted or makes no finding within 90-days, the